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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Original) A method for filtering content, comprising:

receiving at a content filtering router a packet containing a request for content, where said packet comprises a first destination Internet Protocol (IP) address of a content server that stores said content and a second destination IP address of said content filtering router;

determining whether said first destination IP address is on a list of destination IP addresses to be filtered; and

routing said packet to an output port on said content filtering router based on said first destination IP address and said list.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said determining comprises ascertaining that said first IP address is on said list, and wherein said routing comprises directing said packet someplace other than said first destination IP address.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said determining step comprises ascertaining through which output port said packet should be forwarded based on said first destination IP address and a routing table stored on said content filtering router.

4. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein said ascertaining utilizes a routing protocol to determine said output port.

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5. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein said routing protocol is a Border Gateway Protocol (BGP).
6. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein said routing table is a Border Gateway Protocol (BGP) table.
7. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein said directing comprises sending said packet to an additional content filtering router, where said packet comprises a third destination IP address of said additional content filtering router.
8. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein said directing comprises sending said packet to a service provider, such that said service provider can notify a user who made said request that said content has been blocked.
9. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising, before said receiving, accepting said first destination IP address and an associated output port on said content filtering router; and
storing said first destination IP address and said associated output port in said list on said content filtering router.
10. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein said storing comprises saving said first destination IP address and said associated output port in a routing table on said content filtering router.

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11. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said determining comprises ascertaining that said first IP address is not on said list.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11, further comprising removing said second destination IP address from said packet.

13. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein said routing comprises directing said packet toward said first destination IP address.

14. (Original) A method for filtering content, comprising:
receiving at an Internet Protocol (IP) communications device a packet containing a request for content where said packet comprises a source IP address of a client computer from where the request originated and a first destination IP address of a content server that stores said content;

determining that said request is to be subjected to a content filtering service, based on said destination IP address;

adding a second destination IP address of a content filtering router to said packet; and sending said packet toward said content filtering router.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14, further comprising, prior to said adding, determining how many content filtering levels said request is to be subjected to.

16. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein said adding further comprises adding an additional destination IP address to said packet for each of said content filtering levels.

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17. (Original) The method of claim 14, further comprising:
receiving said content from said content server, when said first destination IP address was
not on a routing table on said content filtering router; and
sending said content to said source IP address.
18. (Original) The method of claim 14, further comprising, before said receiving,
acquiring said source IP address and an indicator of whether said content filtering service
is to be applied to said source IP address;
storing said source IP address and said indicator.
19. (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein said acquiring further comprises
obtaining a filtering level associated with said source IP address.
20. (Original) The method of claim 14, further comprising, before said receiving,
acquiring a list of filtering levels and associated second destination IP addresses, where
each filtering level is associated with a different second destination IP address of a different
content filtering router;
storing said list of filtering levels and associated second destination IP addresses.

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21. (Original) A content filtering router, comprising:

a Central Processing Unit (CPU);

communications circuitry;

input ports;

output ports; and

a memory containing:

an operating system;

communication procedures configured to receive a packet containing a request for content, where said packet comprises a first destination Internet Protocol (IP) address of a content server that stores said content and a second destination IP address of said content filtering router;

a routing protocol comprising:

instructions for determining whether said first destination IP address is on a list of destination IP addresses to be filtered;

instructions for routing said packet to one of said output ports based on said first destination IP address and said list; and

a routing table containing said list.

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22. (Original) A bidirectional Internet Protocol (IP) communications device, comprising:

a Central Processing Unit (CPU);

communications circuitry; and

input/output ports; and a memory containing:

an operating system;

communication procedures comprising:

instructions for receiving a packet containing a request for content where said packet comprises an source IP address of a client computer from where the request originated and a first destination IP address of a content server that stores said content; and

instructions for sending said packet toward a content filtering router;

filtering procedures comprising:

instructions for determining that said request is to be subjected to a content filtering service, based on said destination IP address; and

instructions for adding a second destination IP address of said content filtering router to said packet before it is sent toward said content filtering router.

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23. (Currently Amended) A ~~computer program product for use in conjunction with a computer system for content filtering, the computer program product comprising a computer readable storage medium having stored thereon a plurality of computer-executable instructions and a computer program stored therein, the computer program comprising:~~

instructions for receiving at an Internet Protocol (IP) communications device a packet containing a request for content where said packet comprises an source IP address of a client computer from where the request originated and a first destination IP address of a content server that stores said content;

instructions for determining that said request is to be subjected to a content filtering service, based on said destination IP address;

instructions for adding a second destination IP address of a content filtering router to said packet; and

instructions for sending said packet toward said content filtering router.

24. (Original) A system for content filtering, comprising an Internet Protocol (IP) communications device coupled between at least one client computer and at least one filtering router, where said IP communications device is configured to route requests for content received from said at least one client computer toward said at least one filtering router, and where said at least one filtering router is configured to route said requests for content someplace other than a content server that stores said content when said content server's IP address is on a list of addresses to be filtered, where said list is a routing table stored on said content filtering router.

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25. (Original) The system of claim 24, wherein said at least one filtering router is further configured to route said requests for content to said content server when said content server's IP address is not on said list of addresses to be filtered.